Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 10, 2013

Central Office

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Northeast
Kansas City
Central
St. Louis
Southwest
Southeast

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On The Move

by Nicole Thieret

MoDOT is ringing in the New Year and kicking off a statewide engagement effort called "On the Move" to update the state's transportation plan. The department will seek direction regarding transportation priorities through listening sessions, mobile tours and virtual forums over the next several months. The input will guide the priorities, projects and solutions for a safe, modern transportation system into the future.

"Transportation begins with Missouri's citizens," said Chief Engineer Dave Nichols. "Missourians want a safe transportation system they can rely on to get to work, to school, to the doctor, to the grocery store and everywhere in between."

Nichols added that a healthy, vibrant transportation system is critical to the state's economic growth.

Listening sessions, which are set to begin in February, are the first part of the department's efforts to engage the public. MoDOT will conduct a series of sessions to gather input from Missourians about our state's transportation future. Community leaders, transportation experts and everyday citizens will participate in small group discussions during the sessions. Each district will hold listening sessions within their respective regions.

Through mobile tours later in the spring, MoDOT plans to visit each of its 114 counties. During the tours, district spokespersons will engage the attendees in discussing transportation in Missouri. Mobile tours will focus on reaching Missourians at high profile community events that draw in a large number of citizens or at the local coffee shop.

"MoDOT wants to know what really matters to Missourians," said Nichols. "We want to discuss transportation needs, desired projects, future funding sources and where taxpayers' dollars should be invested."

In addition, MoDOT will hold virtual forums for Missourians to provide input. The virtual forum will be found on a dedicated website that will go live later this month. (Employees will receive the link to the site once it's live.) Participants can read through the information and provide comments and input to be included in the transportation plan.

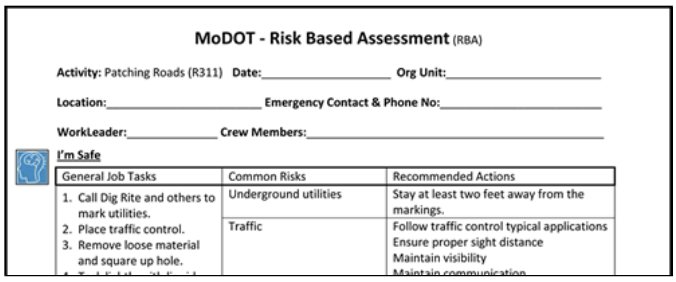
MoDOT will use the information gained from statewide activities to prepare a report that outlines the vision for Missouri transportation for the next 20 years. A timeline for the plan's release is expected to be announced in summer 2013.

As this initiative takes shape, you will hear more from MoDOT's district leadership about ongoing efforts in each region. Each district and each division has On The Move ambassadors who have been trained to carry the key messages across the entire state.

Please share this information with your family and friends and encourage them to become involved in this important conversation.

New Tool Helps Crews Talk About Safety

by Holly Dentner



MoDOT - Risk Based Assessment (RBA)

Activity: Patching Roads (R311) Date:_____ Org Unit:_____

Location:_____ Emergency Contact & Phone No:_____

WorkLeader:_____ Crew Members:_____

I'm Safe

General Job Tasks	Common Risks	Recommended Actions
1. Call Dig Rite and others to mark utilities.	Underground utilities	Stay at least two feet away from the markings.
2. Place traffic control. 3. Remove loose material and square up hole.	Traffic	Follow traffic control typical applications Ensure proper sight distance Maintain visibility Maintain communication

MoDOT's maintenance crews have made a dedicated effort to elevate safety as the number one priority in their work. Part of that effort includes daily safety discussions that are meant to generate useful conversations about the risks maintenance crews face while they're on the job.

Many crews have done a great job with the daily discussions, but it's important that everyone can

have the kind of talks that help keep crews safe. That's why a team of maintenance employees developed a tool called the "risk based assessment" that crews across the state will begin using through the winter months.

"The risk based assessment, or RBA, should help crew leaders and maintenance supervisors so they don't have to scramble to think up ways to talk about safety as it relates to the work they're doing," said Mike Shea, maintenance liaison engineer. "Every activity, from brush cutting to chip sealing, will have an RBA that crews can complete as a way to cover all the bases."

The RBAs list the most common job tasks, the potential risks, and the recommended safe actions for a variety of maintenance activities. They also help cover discussions about personal protective equipment, tools and machinery, site conditions, environmental concerns, and traffic control associated with each activity.

Right now, crews are testing five RBAs based on the most common winter activities, including winter operations, culvert repairs, and roadway patching.

"These assessment forms were created by maintenance employees who know what crews deal with each day," said Shea."Whether they're used as a daily checklist or a weekly conversation starter, they were designed to be easy to use and encourage two-way communication about the specific risks crews face for each job."

The five winter activity risk based assessments in use are available on the Maintenance division SharePoint site *(this link works for active employees only)*. Over the next few months, the RBAs will be developed and adjusted as needed, and the maintenance division plans on having RBAs for every activity ready for use by spring 2013.

MoDOT Job Opportunities, Right to Your In-Box

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Do you know where to find information about job opportunities at MoDOT?

Human Resources publicizes both internal and external positions with a Job Opportunity Announcement. Find a link to all JOAs by clicking the Job Announcements link on the MoDOT intranet home page.

But why go to the trouble of visiting the site more than once? You can subscribe to receive e-mails about new job opportunities by just clicking this link - Subscribe *(this link works for active employees only).*

It is as easy as this:

- Select JOA Subscribe.
- Enter your email address (personal or work).
- Choose the types of positions you would like to hear about. Include the pay grade range and locations, divisions and districts that most interest you.
- Select Subscribe. A subscription confirmation message will soon arrive in your mailbox.

If you had subscribed to the earlier JOA notifications, a change to the former system means you will need to re-subscribe. Sign up today so you can be the first to know of MoDOT job opportunities as they become available.

Thank You For Calling MoDOT

by Marisa Ellison

On an average day, about 500 calls come into MoDOT's customer service centers around the state. On Dec. 20 and 21, our first dose of winter weather, more than 13,000 calls were answered. During those two days, more than 55 customer service representatives, emergency operations center staff, and backups logged in to handle the call volume. And handle it, we did. Very well, in fact.

More than 18 percent of the calls were answered by the "bucket," which means districts were answering each other's calls. This is a good thing.

"Besides our customer service reps, we have trained several employees at all levels to help in customer service when the need arises," said Customer Relations Director Mara Campbell. "The need arose on Dec. 20, and everyone stepped up to help out, which allowed us to provide excellent customer service, as promised," she explained.

Fewer than 4 percent of callers hung up while waiting on hold. "We've been averaging about 140 hang ups per month, which is actually less than 1 percent of total calls, so we've done very well in that regard," she said. Yet, she knows 4 percent during a snow storm could be improved. "There may be opportunity for us to train more backups, so we can use them in a situation like this."

By the way, a large number of people who called MoDOT during this time were pleasantly surprised and commented about reaching a live person.

Customer Service Reps Melissa Crowley (front) and Alberta Green field calls in the Sikeston center. During the storm customers were pleasantly surprised to speak to a live person.

Note: Based on their telephone numbers, callers are directed to the district customer service centers. If the caller is on hold longer than three minutes, the call is sent to the customer service representative whose phone has been idle the longest, regardless of district location. Reports on redirected calls are collected quarterly to evaluate our level of service. For more information, contact Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager, MoDOT's Northeast District.

MoDOT Extends Protection, Benefits

Regarding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identification and Domestic Partnerships

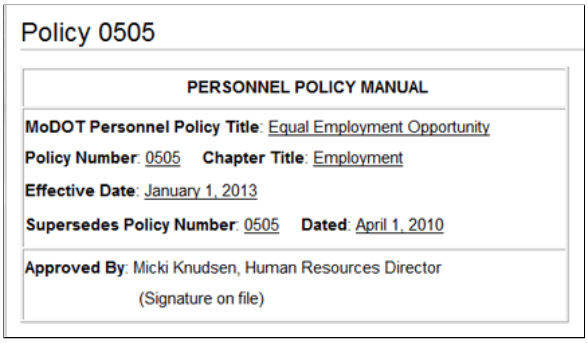
by DeAnne Rickabaugh

As 2013 began, changes to several MoDOT policies extended protection and certain benefits to employees based on sexual orientation, gender identification and domestic partnerships.

Discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identification is prohibited. No employee can treat another employee favorably or unfavorably based on these criteria.

MoDOT is not the first state agency to include gender identification and sexual orientation as protected classes under its Equal Employment Opportunity policies. Several others including the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Missouri departments of Health and Senior Services, Natural Resources, and Economic Development, and the Missouri State Public Defender Office do as well.

The addition of domestic partners as equal to a spouse in the list of recognized relatives means employees can take advantage of benefits such as sick leave, funeral leave and ShareLeave when their partner suffers an illness or loss.



Policy 0505

PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL

MoDOT Personnel Policy Title: Equal Employment Opportunity

Policy Number: 0505 **Chapter Title**: Employment

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Supersedes Policy Number: 0505 **Dated**: April 1, 2010

Approved By: Micki Knudsen, Human Resources Director

(Signature on file)

Domestic partners are also equal to spouses in regard to the policy regarding employment of relatives.

For policy purposes, a domestic partnership is defined as a personal relationship between individuals who live together and share a common domestic life together and are jointly responsible for the basic necessities of life, but are not joined in any type of legal partnership, marriage, or civil union.

“The changes to these policies move us toward our goals of an inclusive workforce,” said Micki Knudsen, MoDOT Human Resources director. “Extending protections and leave benefits to employees based on sexual orientation or gender identification is simply reflects our values as an organization.”

If you would like to view the policies as they now apply, click on the following links *(these links work for active employees only)*:

Personnel Policy 0505, "Equal Employment Opportunity"
Personnel Policy 3500, "Sick Leave"
Personnel Policy 3506, "Funeral Leave"
Personnel Policy 3511, "ShareLeave Program"
Personnel Policy 0503, "Employment of Relatives"

What's Happening

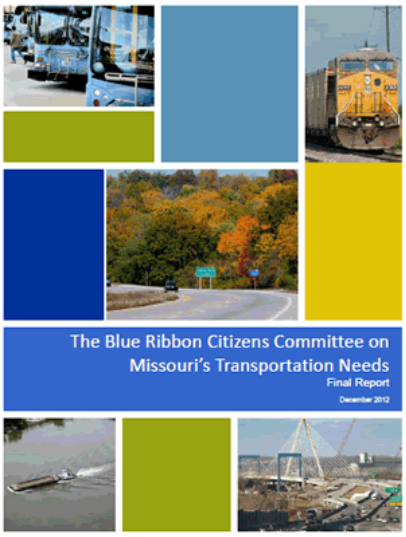
Review Your Check Stub!

Your January 15, 2013 paycheck will change because of the increase in Social Security taxes. You also might see other differences if you made changes to your cafeteria plan, dental and vision plans, charitable campaign, deferred comp or optional life insurance. Health insurance premiums did not change. However, if you made changes to your health coverage, those changes would be reflected on the Dec. 14, 2012 paycheck.

Check your address too. It is important to make sure the address on your electronic check stub is correct. W-2s will be mailed to your home address in January. Make sure the address is current to avoid delays in delivery.

So check your stub and make sure it’s right. You should review your electronic check stub regularly to make sure your pay, deductions and leave balances are correct.

If you have any questions, please contact your district or division payroll representative or Financial Services Payroll section.



Committee Report Available

The Blue Ribbon Citizens Committee on Missouri's Transportation Needs presented its final report to Speaker of the House Tim Jones earlier this week. The committee was appointed last spring by former Speaker Steven Tilley. It held seven regional public meetings that were attended by 818 people and included 208 separate presentations on a host of transportation issues.
Committee Report

January Service Anniversaries

30 Years
William Robert Whitfield - CO

25 Years
Richard E. Bennett - CO
James R. Dickson - CO
Cheryl Renee Ball - CO
Roseanna M. Ridnour - CO
Dennis H. Brucks - CO
Paula Ruth Lambrecht - CO
Roxanna Rae Baldridge - SE
Clyde D. Brower - SE
Debra L. Couch - SE
James D. Counts - SE
Stanley C. Johnson - SE
Daniel Thomas Arnold - SL
Robert Bruce Green - CD

20 Years
Yvonne Marie Wilbers - CO
Julie C. Stotlemeyer - CO
Harley James Green - SE
Steven Jay Thorpe - SW
Larry W. Renick - SL
Natalie Karan Ward-Lyn - SL
Cristi Lee Polen - KC
Terry L. Burris - NE
Randy W. Inlow - NE
Becky L. Novinger - NE
Travis Michael Wombwell - NE

15 Years
Larry W. Lizenbee - SE
Donald W. Tinkle - SE

15 Years Continued
Kristi Ann Bachman - SW
Justin C. Presson - SW
Stacy Marie Reese - SW
Laura Susan Ellen - SL
Donna J. Gerke - CD
Marisela Ward - KC

10 Years
Michael J. Bohon - CO
Patrick J. Hake - CO
Jody Ray White - SW
James D. Kelley - SL
Christopher K. Morgan - SL
Joshua D. Kincaid - CD
Robert W. Long - CD
Jeannie Patti - CD
Keith P. Dawson - KC
David R. Price - KC
Jodie Lynn Puhr - KC
Jon W. Brewer - NE
Charles R. Hubbard - NE
Robert J. Hunolt - NE
Tom Wayne Shrum - NE
Andy W. Thurman - NW

5 Years
Danielle M. Thomas - CO
Erica M. Harris - CO
Alicia C. O'Connell - CO
Douglas W. Barklage - CO
Christopher D. Brown - SE
Shannon William Cureton - SE
Giles W. King - SE

5 Years Continued
Chad Allen Barger - SW
Denise Renata Eagles - SW
Gilbert Valdez - SW
Robert Anthony Brusca - SL
Kelsey Allysa Komnick - SL
Brian Lange - SL
Dora Sue Maschhoff - SL
Shirlyn Myles - SL
Larry J. Radford - SL
John Russell - SL
Pamela Waris - SL
Shaunda White - SL
Bret R. Avery - CD
Trent A. Brooks - CD
Gilberto Flores - CD
Curtis W. Holland - CD
Derek F. Lepper - CD
Scott G. Lyons - CD
Brenda N. McClain - CD
Clint W. McDonald - CD
Donald E. Miller - CD
Felipe M. Ortega - CD
Adam L. Parrett - CD
Richard G. Prosser - CD
Susan R. Ringeisen - CD
Jeffrey L. Withington - CD
Dustin Robert Jenkins - NW
Marcia N. Johnson - NW
Jason W. Meyer - NW
Stephen T. Shineman - NW

Connections

The mission of Connections is to be a source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide.

Customer Relations - MoDOT
P.O. Box 270, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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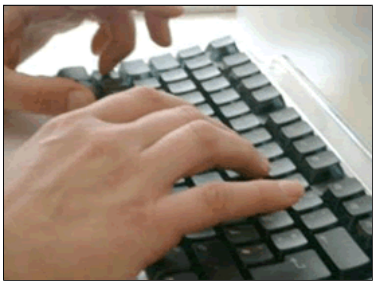
"Self Service" Lets You Write Your Own Ticket

by Matt Hiebert

Since MoDOT turned on its first computers, the Help Desk has been taking calls and walking employees through the tribulations of technology.

Now, technology just made this problem-solving process a bit easier.



With the launch of "Self Service," employees will be able to fill out their own Help Desk tickets. The Help Desk phone line (573-751-5000) will still be available if you choose to make the phone call or have an urgent issue and need assistance immediately.

And, the process offers other features to save time and phone calls. Self Service not only lets you report the problem, you can monitor the problem status throughout the solution process. Basically, Self Service allows users to take the middleman out of the trouble-reporting procedure, saving time, money and manpower.

The process is easy. Just follow the Self Service link **http://ghbmcapp01/helpdesk** and fill out the fields in the form. There's also a new button on the intranet homepage. You'll need to know your tag number and location and supply a description of the issue. You can even rate the urgency of your problem.

And don't worry! The Help Desk will still be answering the phone when your computer won't boot up and you can't get to the form!

Central Office Happenings

Diversity Education Event

Conversation on Race
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Parrish Conference Room – Central District
EODD Director Rudy Nickens

Contact Elizabeth Reed to reserve a seat
Elizabeth.Reed@modot.mo.gov
573.522.5333 by Friday, Jan. 11

Attendees receive two hours LMS credit

January Red Cross Blood Drives

The Red Cross has scheduled several blood drives this month for Missouri state employees in Jefferson City. Please give the gift of life and volunteer to donate. Pizza and other goodies will be provided. To reduce wait times go online and make an appointment at redcrossblood.org.

January 22 and 23
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Truman Building, 4th Floor Auditorium
January 25
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral – Undercroft
January 29
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Truman Building, 4th Floor Auditorium

CPR and PowerLift Training Classes Offered

In addition to the annual CPR training, this year PowerLift Training classes will also be offered to central office employees. PowerLift is a common sense approach to lifting/material handling. Whether lifting/material handling is a task related to your position or not, you can still benefit from the training and are less likely to be injured at home or at work.

Employees wanting to take both classes can register for the same day or different days.
January 10, 16, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31
CPR: 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
PowerLift: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Training Room B at HRED

To register for CRP and/or Powerlift Training Classes, or for further information, contact: Danielle Thomas via email - Danielle.Thomas@modot.mo.gov.

CRP seating is limited to eight employees per class and Powerlift seating is limited to 15 per class.

Additional classes will be offered in the upcoming months for central office employees and for all employees across the state in their respective locations.

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Northwest District

New Sidewalk Projects in St. Joseph Will Help to Fill the Gaps

Frederick Blvd. in St. Joseph is just one project to add additional sidewalks in areas like these to improve pedestrian safety and mobility. This project is set to have a bid opening in May with construction complete by winter of 2013 at a cost of around $600,000.

Federal enhancement grant funds soon will help pedestrians in St. Joseph enjoy walking, visiting restaurants and shopping more safely with a couple of future projects from the Missouri Department of Transportation. The locations slated to receive new sidewalks and other possible improvements include both sides of the road on Frederick Blvd. from Woodbine to the Belt Highway, as well as both sides of the North Belt Highway from Ashland to County Line Road. The Frederick Blvd. project is set to have a bid opening in May with construction complete by winter of 2013 at a cost of around $600,000. The North Belt Highway project won't be awarded for construction until at least November 2013 with a spring 2014 construction date, and at a cost of more than $800,000.

Around the District

This holiday season, Northwest District employees gave generously to those in need. At the District Office, staff collected and delivered much-needed supplies to the women and children at the YWCA's Women's Shelter in St. Joseph. Dee Culver with Amber Dydell above delivered the supplies. Employees across the district also collected money and gift cards for three of our MoDOT families in need. In total, approximately $2,200 was given to the families with $1,100 coming from employees and a $1,100 match from the Employee Association.

Maintenance Supervisor Frank Allen took this photo of some Trenton employees hand patching at a bridge approach. Allen took the photo at the job site with his new iPhone, provided as part of a pilot program to help field staff complete administrative tasks like customer concerns, time sheets, inventory, emails, etc., by using smart phones and tablets. The program includes four maintenance supervisors in each district and is running now through March 2013. Also included in the pilot program in the Northwest District are: Jeff Pittman, Doug White and Derrick Gott.

MoDOT Right of Way staff has been busy selling property. In December, the district sold six properties in six different counties. Right of Way Manager Bryan Bailey is shown above at the Rock Port vacant lot auction. Overall, the sale price of all properties resulted in 109% of the appraised value.

Approximately 50 employees at the District Office participated in a Personality IQ class to help them better understand their communication strengths and weaknesses, as well as how to better engage with their co-workers. Pictured here is one of the "Gold Organizer" groups.

For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager
Northwest District
816.387.2481
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Northeast District

Speed Limit Increase on U.S. 63

by Marisa Christy-Kerns

Clint Tillitt and Scott Teter, senior maintenance workers at Macon, are shown installing a new 70 mph sign on U.S. 63 north of Macon.

After making several improvements to intersections along U.S. 63, MoDOT restored the speed limit on the major highway from 65 mph to 70 mph between the Boone and Randolph County line to Kirksville. This change is expected to provide motorists with a more consistent driving experience, thus reducing confusion since U.S. 63 is 70 mph from Columbia south.

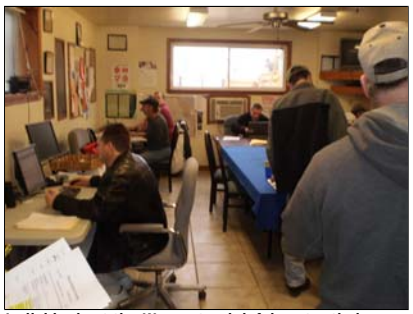
Some of the improvements already made at several intersections along U.S. 63 have included rumble strips, stop sign flashers and additional signs being placed to alert motorists of the approaching intersections. In addition to these, future intersection improvements will be occurring as the result of a road safety audit that was conducted in November.

The Northeast and Central Districts worked together and with the Missouri State Highway Patrol to develop and implement a communication plan to alert residents of the change.

Most of the feedback from drivers, as well as media coverage, has been positive. All speed limit signs have been changed.

Impressive Turnout at Job Fairs

by Marisa Christy-Kerns



Individuals at the Warrenton job fair enter their employment profiles, while others wait their turn. More than 130 people attended the job fairs held at the Warrenton and Mexico maintenance facilities last week.

The Northeast District held its first two self-sponsored job fairs at the Warrenton and Mexico maintenance facilities on Jan. 5 and 8. The job fairs were used as an outreach effort to assist individuals wanting to apply for maintenance positions that are currently open. With an electronic application process now in place, several computers were set up for individuals to use and enter employment profiles and preferences. Most of the time, all of the computers were being utilized, and others were waiting to use a computer.

“The job fairs were very successful,” said Ellen Gehringer, Northeast District human resources manager. “We saw over 130 people between the two events, and gained over 90 applications for our positions,” she added. At the Warrenton fair, individuals were waiting in line 45 minutes prior to the start time.

“We felt that by holding these fairs, it would help to encourage individuals from these and surrounding communities to come in and apply for the positions and provide us with a more diverse and qualified pool of applicants,” said Ellen. “And we feel we accomplished this.”

Besides the online job posting, human resources and customer relations worked together to place advertisements in newspapers, online, post yard signs with the dates, and connected with local Chambers of Commerce to include in their newsletters.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

by Tana Akright

MoDOT has made keeping I-70 in good condition a priority. Resurfacing treatments though don't last long because of the damage that exists beneath the surface. The original pavement – some of which dates back to sections of old U.S. Route 40 that were built in the 1920s – has been pounded to bits by years of mounting traffic.

Lydia Brownell, senior geotechnical specialist, recently gathered pavement samples and data for analysis at central office to determine if edge drain treatments would be a viable option prior to an upcoming overlay.

"This is an important part of building our roads, even though it is a small part in the whole scheme of things," Lydia said. "A little preliminary data gathering and analysis up front sometimes saves thousands of dollars in the cost of a project," she added. "However, she explained, there is always the possibility what is found may drive the cost up, but at least we know before the project begins."

The work involved coordinating with five different departments inside MoDOT: district materials, maintenance and traffic, and central office drilling crews and pavement engineers, and utility locates outside of MoDOT.

Harry Holtmeyer, with central office drilling office soils and geology, takes a sample from the shoulder on I-70. (Below) The core sample will be broken and analyzed for existing conditions to determine the types of treatments that need to be done to extend the life of the pavement.

Traffic Counts - City of Hannibal

by Tana Akright

Joe Horan, intermediate field acquisition technician in transportation planning, is taking advantage of some decent weather to set a road tube on St. Mary's Avenue in Hannibal.

Traffic counts are not only important for MoDOT, but also for many local municipalities who are planning improvements. Earlier this month, the City of Hannibal requested assistance from MoDOT in collecting traffic count data by using a road tube, one of the most accurate and economical methods in collecting traffic counts.

The tubes detect vehicle axles by sensing air pulses created by each axle (tire) strike of the tube in the roadway. This air pulse is sensed by the unit and is recorded, or processed, to create volume, speed, or axle classification data. While one road tube is used to collect volume, two road tubes can be used to collect speed and class data. Road tubes hold up well in all weather conditions; however, they don't get along with street sweepers and snow plows.

For more info

Marisa Brown-Ellison
Customer Relations Manager
Northeast District
573.248.2502
Marisa.Ellison@modot.mo.gov

1711 S. Highway 61
Hannibal, MO 63401

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KansasCity District

Manchester Bridge Industry Meeting Draws Crowd

Design-build project scheduled to be awarded this year

by Steve Porter

Contractors and consultants expecting to compete for the I-70 Manchester Bridge Design-Build project came to the Gamber Center in Lee's Summit Tuesday with plenty of questions. MoDOT gave them some answers, and challenged them to be resourceful and imaginative in presenting their plans to replace the aging bridge. MoDOT will replace the I-70 bridges over Manchester Trafficway, the Blue River and the adjacent rail yard beginning later this year. As part of the project, MoDOT will replace the historic through-tied arch Route 40 bridge over the Blue River just north of I-70.

The Manchester Bridge meeting for interested contractors, consultants and subcontractors drew 86 people, many from out of state.

The design-build project is expected to be awarded this year. The highly successful design-build contracting process accelerates construction while giving both MoDOT and the design/builder more flexibility in delivering the project on schedule and within a set budget.

The current I-70 bridges were built in the late 1950s, and are among the earliest pieces of interstate construction in western Missouri. They weren't designed for the current level of interstate traffic, which includes a far higher volume of trucks that are much heavier than anticipated more than 50 years ago. The bridges now require frequent maintenance and extensive repairs, causing motorists further delays. The three narrow lanes in each direction are congested during peak travel times. The Route 40 bridge features only four narrow lanes, no shoulders, with height and weight restrictions.

Manchester Bridge Design Build Project Manager Susan Barry explains the parameters of the project to 86 potential contractors and consultants during Tuesday's industry meeting in Lee's Summit.

Tuesday's meeting of industry stakeholders wasn't to decide what the design will be, who will build it or how. It explained MoDOT's process for requesting proposals, gave participants the parameters and set MoDOT's expectations, which begins with a demand to minimize inconvenience to I-70 travelers.

The request for qualifications process allows MoDOT to pre-qualify design-build teams, ensuring that the best teams compete to build the new Manchester Bridge. The design-build process allows for the design and construction to move forward concurrently, completed by the same contractor team on an accelerated time frame. It allows the new bridge to be constructed faster than the usual design-bid-build process. It will also allow contractors to incorporate innovative cost-saving ideas that will allow taxpayers to get more for their money, without sacrificing the quality needed for an interstate-level bridge.

Emergency Response Operator Burgett Thwarts Roadside Criminal Activity

by Gina Myles

For the second time in two years, MoDOT Emergency Response (ER) Operator Craig Burgett has reported criminal activity along Kansas City's highways that has resulted in police arrest.

While on duty Dec. 8 along southbound I-35 near The Paseo, Burgett spotted a man working under the hood of a vehicle and

Emergency Response Operator Craig Burgett

stopped to assist. The vehicle had been checked and tagged by Motorist Assist (MA) the day before to let other operators know it had already been logged into the system as a stalled vehicle. Following protocol, Burgett called the Scout Traffic Management Center and provided the vehicle's license plate number, his location, the fact a person was now working under the hood of the car and that he was going to offer assistance to get the person and car off the interstate to a safer location.

As Burgett approached the car, he saw a man trying to take out the battery. The man explained that it was his uncle's car and he was removing the battery so it could be charged. Burgett noticed there was no other vehicle on the scene and asked the subject how he got to the vehicle and how he planned to take the battery to be charged. Burgett became suspicious when the man replied he had walked to the vehicle.

"I told him for our safety I would push him to the next exit so he can work on the car off the highway," said Burgett. "But the man replied, 'oh you know what? I forgot the keys – man I knew I forgot something!'" At this point, Burgett's suspicions were confirmed. "I knew then it was not his car – it just did not make sense, so I got back in my truck, called Scout to report what I observed and asked them to call the police."

When the man could not get the battery loose, he got inside of the car and began putting items inside a large duffle bag he had carried with him. He then got out and began walking toward The Paseo exit. About the same time, two Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) officers arrived on the scene and Burgett told the officers what he had observed and pointed out the subject. It turned out Burgett's instincts were right. The officers confiscated the duffel bag and ticketed the man so the vehicle owner could press charges and have the vehicle towed.

Burgett summed the incident up as, "another exciting day on the ER shift!" However, his supervisor, Scout Incident Management Coordinator Rusty James said, "This was great work on Craig's part. And, this is not the first time that Craig has been instrumental in the arrest of subjects involved in criminal activity. Last year he assisted KCPD in the arrest of suspects who were stealing copper wire on the Scout system."

This is the third time Burgett has gone above and beyond what is expected from MoDOT employees. In November 2001 while working in maintenance, he and fellow fallen co-worker Clifton Scott were patching potholes on I-470 west of View High Drive in a mobile operation when a tractor-trailer struck a Truck Mounted Attenuator (TMA) backing the operation. Another MoDOT employee, Richard Strader who was driving the TMA, went careening off of I-470 rolling down the slope. Scott and Burgett ran to the scene, forced the driver's door open and pulled an unconscious Strader to safety just before the truck burst into flames.

James commends Burgett for continually going above and beyond. "I look forward to seeing Craig recognized for his efforts."

For more info

Jennifer Benefield
Customer Relations Manager
Kansas City District
816.607.2153
Jennifer.Benefield@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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KC CD SL SW SE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 10, 2013

2012: A Year of Progress

Making mid-Missouri roads smoother and safer highlighted the list of accomplishments for the Central District in 2012.

"I want to thank each and every employee for contributing to the progress we made in 2012," said District Engineer Dave Silvester. "I am proud of the hard work and determination Central District employees put into providing the best possible transportation system for our customers in the past year."

Among the Central District's major accomplishments for the year were:

Hurricane Deck Bridge, Camden County. Ground was broken in May for the new $32.3 million bridge on Route 5.

Safe and Sound and COMPLETE. The effort to improve and replace 88 deteriorating bridges in the Central District came to an official close in September.

Ground Broken for Expanded Route 50, Osage County. U.S. Route 50 became one step closer to becoming a four-lane highway across Missouri when ground was broken on a 6.6-mile expansion of the east-west corridor in Osage County in October.

Route 63 and H Interchange, Boone County. Construction on the new interchange connecting Route 63 and H was completed in November.

Osage River Rail Bridge. Ground was broken in March for a new $20 million, 1,200-foot railroad bridge across the Osage River in Osage City.

Contractor crews work to place bridge beams for the new Route 63 and H interchange, which opened in November.

New Route 179 Interchange, Jefferson City. The new Route 179/Mission Drive interchange located between Route C and Edgewood Drive in Jefferson City opened in July to provide access to the new St. Mary's Health Center development.

Route 133 at Meta, Osage County. A project to realign and resurface Route 133 finished up in December.

Camdenton Pedestrian Bridge. A partnership with the City of Camdenton resulted in the construction in May of a pedestrian bridge on Route 54 over Route 5 and new sidewalks along Route 54.

Interstate 44/Route 5 Interchange Improvements. A project to rehabilitate the bridge at the interchange of I-44 and Route 5 in Lebanon was completed in November.

Partnership Uses Used Tires to Help Environment: The Missouri departments of Transportation and Natural Resources joined together to use mats made from recycled tires to control weeds that grow around highway sign posts.

Safety Manager Wins State Award: Central District's Safety and Health Manager Chris Engelbrecht was honored in May with the Missouri State Employee Award of Distinction for Safety by Gov. Jay Nixon.

Attaboys

2012 Accomplishments
In an editorial noting the Central District's 2012 accomplishments (see story above), the Jefferson City News Tribune wrote, "The safety of Mid-Missouri motorists and the economic vitality of our area depend on infrastructure improvements and proper maintenance. We commend MoDOT for its professionalism and productivity during the past year." Click **here** to read the full editorial.

Route K
A customer sent the following e-mail to Kirsten Munck, assistant to the resident engineer in Columbia, regarding the project to resurface and add shoulders and bicycle lanes along a seven-mile stretch of Route K:

"Well, seems the work is completed on Route K. Looks like a success! So nice to not have to worry about the potholes any longer, as well as the danger to the cyclists and drivers. Please pass along a big thanks to all involved. I could tell adjustments were made in the traffic flow, making it much easier to negotiate and avoid some of the construction when possible. Again, thanks for hearing my (our) concerns and following thru. Great job!

New Year's Eve Snow Fight
This e-mail came in through the department's website:
"I just had to stop and say a big THANK YOU for the MODOT crews working in Roach, Missouri and en route on my way back to St. Louis, MO. I was coming home during the New Year's Eve snow, beginning on State Road AA to 54 East, to 70 East and then to 40 East. I am fearful of driving during bad weather conditions, but I was so pleased to see all the snow plows and salt trucks on my way back. Thank you MODOT for making a miserable 3 hour drive bearable and so much safer. And know that there is one Missouri resident who appreciates what most take for granted. Again, thank you so much and have a blessed New Year!!!"

Road Repairs
This e-mail came in response to a customer request to fix a drop off on Route 135 near Boonville:
"Thanks so much…The work crew was already on the job (less than 24 hrs. later) putting down gravel to minimize the drop off from Highway 135's pavement to my father-in-law's drive. MODOT rocks!"

Senior Maintenance Worker Steve Washam works to fill a pothole. Steve works out of the Columbia maintenance facility. (Photo by Cathy Morrison)

Coalition Sponsors Capital City Showcase

Buckle Bear wishes good luck to participants in the Capital City Showcase held Dec. 22 and Dec. 27-29 at the Jefferson City High School gymnasium.

The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's Central Region took its safety messages to participants in the Capital City Showcase held Dec. 22 and Dec. 27 -29 at the Jefferson City High School gymnasium.

The coalition hosted a brunch on Dec. 28 for a number of high-school basketball teams from Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Ohio and Illinois. Antoinne Jones, a speaker for ThinkFirst Missouri, was the keynote speech at the brunch. ThinkFirst works to prevent traumatic injuries through education, research and policy. Jones was 18 years old when he was involved in a one-car crash that left him a quadriplegic. He was speeding and not wearing his seatbelt.

"I am a living, breathing example of what can happen when you speed and don't wear your seatbelt," Jones says.

During the tournament, the coalition hosted the half-time entertainment, which involved a relay between two volunteer fans from each participating team. Wearing fatal vision goggles that demonstrate what it's like to drive impaired, the volunteers had to dribble the ball from mid-court and attempt to make a basket. Activities also included a three-point contest and slam-dunk competition, which were judged by Jones, Cole County Deputy Ralph Lemongelli and Police Officer Jeff Collins. Buckle Bear was in attendance to keep spirits high!

District Traffic Engineer Trent Brooks and Senior Traffic Technician Dianna Johnson serve on the committee that plans the tournament.

"This is a great way to educate a number of kids in a fun setting on the importance of safe behavior," Johnson said.

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A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

January 10, 2013

St. Louis District

Major Design-Build Project Kicks Off for the New Year

by Linda Wilson Horn

The $110.9 million Design-Build contract to build a new I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River bridge broke ground last week to kick off construction. This bridge project will build a new river crossing upstream from the existing two bridges.The new bridge will open to traffic in 2014. Upon its completion in 2015, the existing westbound bridge built in 1935 will be closed and demolished. Westbound I-64 traffic will use the 1989 bridge, and eastbound I-64 traffic will use the new bridge.

The 1989 bridge will be rehabilitated in 2015 with total project completion by late 2015. The total project extends from Spirit of St Louis Blvd to Route 94. Other project improvements include work on the Spirit bridge, connection of the north outer road to a new Chesterfield Airport Road interchange and the continuation of a fourth lane westbound to the Route 94 exit.

The project is funded with federal and state transportation funds with approval from the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the East-West Gateway Council of Governments. MoDOT thanks federal, state and local agencies involved in the project approvals and permits to date. The contract was awarded to the Walsh-Alberici Joint Venture in July 2012. The Walsh-Alberici joint venture includes Walsh Construction Company and Alberici Constructors. The lead design firm is Burns & McDonnell Inc.

Pictured from left include: Walsh Construction Co Project Director Joe Sannasardo; Burns & McDonnell Bridge Designer Kevin Eisenbeis; State Representative Kurt Bahr, State Representative Don Gosen, Weldon Spring Mayor Don Licklider; MoDOT Boone Bridge Project Director Jim Gremaud; Chesterfield Mayor Bruce Geiger; State Representative Elect Robert Cornejo; St Louis County Chief Operating Officer Garry Earls; St Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann; Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Ken Suelthaus; Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Grace Nichols; MoDOT Assistant Chief Engineer Don Hillis; MoDOT St. Louis District Engineer Ed Hassinger; and Federal Highway Administrator Kevin Ward.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

2013
- New bridge construction begins
- Lane shifts and narrowing lanes in both directions, St Charles side of bridge
- Monarch Levee Trail closed under bridge
- One month closure of Spirit bridge over I-64

2014
- Lane shifts and narrowing lanes in both directions, St. Charles side of bridge
- Lane shifts and narrowing lanes westbound, St. Louis side of bridge
- Monarch Levee Trail closed under bridge
- Weekend work: One lane and ramp to Chesterfield Airport Road closed
- Weekend closure to demo Chesterfield Airport Road ramp bridge
- Weekend closure to install new beams at Chesterfield Air-port Road ramp bridge
- Late 2014: Opening of new eastbound I-64 bridge

2015
- Lane shifts and narrowing lanes westbound, St. Louis side of bridge
- Rehab work on 1980s bridge
- Move westbound traffic to 1980s bridge
- Open fourth westbound lane to Route 94
- Late 2015: Demo 1935 bridge

For more information on this major project, visit www.modot.org/boonebridge.

This rendering of the new I-64 Daniel Boone Missouri River Bridge shows a view looking east from St Charles County toward St Louis County. The new bridge is the one on the right with a new bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting the KATY Trail to the Monarch Levee Trail.

Service Awards

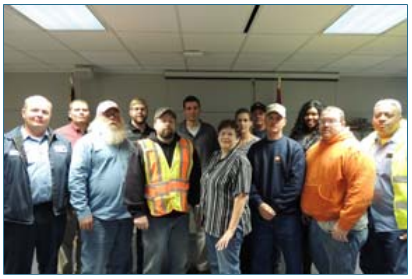
by Kara Price

5 years

Patrick Arbuthnot
Chris D. Bain
Shane L. Bird
Todd J. Burgess
Fred T. Chew
Christopher J. Cruse
Phillip D. Davis
Philip A. Dietrich
Randall L. Edgar
Yvonne M. Elliott
Rebecca R. Fort
Anthony J. Gambaro
Eric R. Hahn
Nevzeta Hasanovic
Casey M. Henning
Glenn Holmes
Arberdella Hurd
Allen C. Lane
Joseph W. Marler
William K. Marshall
Gary A. Mazdra
Jerome L. Mitchell
Roderick Q. Mondaine
Charles M. Rhodes
Christopher L. Schaeffer
Jessie D. Scherrer
Keith A. Sims
Richard E. Skyles
Daniel Tucker
Alexander L. Wassman

10 years

Javal L.Burton
Joshua S. Claspill
Jeremy B. Collier
Dustin J. Dorenkamp
Deborah K. Hackmann
David L. Herzog
Lowell C. House
Jonny W. Johnson
Vince G. Kaimann
Trenton J. Laur
Douglas F. Logsden
Stuart R. McNeil
Lucas K. Meese
Teresa M. Mount
Jennifer A. Riegel
Bradley W. Ruble
Donald J. Sparks



15 years

Jason G. Aubuchon
Patricia Q. Breece
Eric S. Burlbaw
James D. Colonna
Allen W. Day
Susan D. Declue
Marcus D. Hall
Dennis P. Hixson
Mollie D. Leblanc
Kelvin R. Mack
David A. Perkins
Cheryl D. Tucker
Brian W. Umfleet
Glen H. Youngsblood

20 years

Richard L. Campbell
Yan Gluzman
Christina L.Hannar
Ena M. Hayden
Bradley E. Hays
Kenneth R. Maass
Kenneth L. Rothschild
Mark W. Schall
Todd G. Strong
Danny Williams

25 years

John P. Ohlms
Charles L. Rowden
Timothy M. Shaw
Richard Sterrett
Charles Wiggins
Rachel L. Wilhelm
Bruce L. Wright

30 years

Kevin W. Golden
Tom M. Stratman
Laurence Tichy

35 years

Shirley J. Norris
David W. Rein
Charles L. Vollmer
Richard D. Ziegelmeyer

Construction continues on the new Mississippi River Bridge project between St. Clair County, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri. Crews continue to work on constructing the driving surface for the new bridge and are expected to connect to the Missouri and Illinois approaches in late February. Engineers on the project anticipate meeting in the middle in late June or early July.

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Southwest District

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PUTTING NEW IDEAS INTO ACTION: Among those making the rounds and judging at the Southwest District's Tool and Equipment Challenge are, from left, Maintenance Supervisors Larry Wilson of Galena, David Colf of Cassville and Dennis Roethemeier of Mount Vernon. They are examining a hinge for a break-away post for object markers, an innovation developed by Lamar Maintenance. This was one of 35 entries in the district competition held in the District Garage on Wednesday, Jan. 9. Winners going to the statewide contest will be announced later. (Photo by Bob Edwards)

GETTING DRIVERS' ATTENTION: Helping install a new electronic curve sign on Route 82 near El Dorado Springs is Senior Electrician Shannon Johnson of the Joplin Signal Shop. The interactive sign, equipped with a radar unit, flashes "Slow Down" when an approaching vehicle is driving too fast for the curve. (Photo by Eric Turner)

Southwest District Prepares For Busy 2013 in Road Construction

by Angela Eden

Southwest District project offices are gearing up for what will be another busy construction year in 2013, building 63 projects worth an estimated $100 million.

Some of the major projects include:

- Building a new interchange by adding ramps to the 30th Road overpass at I-49 south of Lamar.
- Building a brand new interchange on Route 13 at Route 82 in Osceola.
- Adding a third lane in each direction to James River Freeway (Route 60) between Campbell Avenue and Kansas Expressway in Springfield.
- Widening Third Street (Business 65/Route 14) to three lanes in Ozark.

Work is progressing on the Main Street/Zora Street interchange in Joplin. (Photo by Rowland Harmon)

District construction inspectors also will oversee several permit projects including:

- Construction of a roundabout at Route 171 and Centennial Avenue/East Road in Webb City, being paid for by Webb City
- Interchange reconstruction at I-44/Main Street in Joplin, being paid for by Mercy Hospital
- Upgrading the I-44/Route 166 interchange west of Joplin, being paid for by Downstream Casino

Southwest District Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell said all five project offices are poised and ready for the workload.

This year, much of the responsibility for inspection duties for MoDOT projects shifts to contractors, Campbell said. MoDOT inspectors' roles will switch to quality assurance and project management instead of the day-to-day inspection, he said.

"We're hopeful our experiences last year with Quality Management projects will benefit us as we transition into them full time," he said. "Each of our project offices has now had an opportunity to administer a couple QM projects."

Work is continuing from 2012 into 2013 on several projects, including:

- Replacing the I-44 bridges over Range Line Road in Joplin and converting Range Line Road to a Diverging Diamond Interchange design. Completion: December.
- Building a new interchange at Main Street (Route 43) and Zora Street in Joplin, a partnership between the city of Joplin and MoDOT. Completion: May.
- Converting the Kansas Expressway (Route 13)/James River Freeway (Route 60) interchange in Springfield to a Diverging Diamond Interchange. Completion: August.
- Replacing the West Bypass (Route 160) bridges over I-44 in Springfield. Completion: May.

In addition, contractors will be hired to chip-seal up to 211 miles of road.

Resurfacing contracts will be awarded for 350 miles of road, with some projects to include adding two-foot wide shoulders and rumble stripes.

As usual, MoDOT will focus on safety in work zones.

"Safety has several components," District Engineer Becky Baltz said. "We need to make sure we keep traffic moving, that our work zones are easy to understand and that we keep ourselves safe and the people around us safe."

Drivers again will be asked to "Rate Our Work Zones" by filling out online work zone surveys.

New MoDOT Safety Message:

I'm Safe.
What I Use is Safe
Where I Am is Safe
My Customers are Safe
So We Go Home Safe

For more info

Bob Edwards
Customer Relations Manager
Southwest District
417.895.7713
Robert.Edwards@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Comments & Suggestions

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January 10, 2013

Southeast District

SE District Fights Winter Weather During Holiday Season

Crews Receive Positive Feedback from Travelers

For most of the season, the Southeast District has experienced an unseasonably warm winter. But those holding out hope for a white Christmas got their wish the evening of Dec. 25.

Crews diligently worked on Christmas Day as a winter storm delivered accumulations of 3.5 to 9.5 inches of snow across the Southeast District.

"Being proactive is critical with winter weather," said District Maintenance Engineer Jeff Johnson. "The maintenance crews pretreated the days before the storm hit and were ready-to-go when the first snowflakes began to fall."

The blizzard spread across the district, bringing accumulations ranging from 3.5 to 9.5 inches to the 25-county region. Sikeston and the surrounding areas received the heaviest snowfall.

"Our dedicated crews worked overnight fighting the snow," said District Engineer Mark Shelton. "I realize this caused many employees to work on an evening they had intended to spend with their families. I could not have been prouder of the way our crews stepped up to the plate."

Shelton added that this is vital to providing outstanding customer service and keeping the traveling public safe.

"I appreciate the teamwork, dedication and outstanding results our crews demonstrated," he said.

In addition, the teamwork extended past district boundaries. Counterparts from the Northeast and St. Louis Districts joined the Southeast District in the winter weather fight.

"I cannot thank the districts enough for their assistance," said Shelton. "Employees from the Northeast District left their homes on Christmas morning to help out. This was a selfless act, as I am sure many had plans with their families."

With the help of Northeast, crews kept I-55 open and focused on minor routes more quickly. Additional assistance arrived from STL District on Dec. 26, which played an important role in keeping I-55 and Route 67 open.

Before the snow even had a chance to melt, the Southeast District was anticipating their next winter weather event. The next system began its sweep across the region the evening of Friday, Dec. 28. Most of the district received 2 inches of snow, with northern areas receiving accumulations of 4 to 6 inches.

This time, STL and Central Districts assisted the SE District.

The third system to strike made its way through Southeast Missouri on New Year's Eve.

"The storm was not predicted to be the blizzard we experienced on Christmas night, but regardless, we did our prep work," said Johnson.

Luckily, the temperatures did not drop low enough in most portions of the district to bring snowfall. However, the crews diligently worked on New Year's Eve to monitor the situation and treat areas such as bridges and overpasses.

With the recent winter weather, numerous customers have taken time to thank the Southeast District crews for their efforts throughout the holiday season. Please see several of the comments received below.

"Special thanks 2 @MoDOTSoutheast who have been prepping for Old Man Winter. Hope they get 2 spend time w/ family b4 they have 2 go back out." State Representative Shelley Keeney via Twitter on Dec. 24

"Dear MoDOT workers…we live in Risco…I want to thank your workers for the great job keeping Hwy 62 cleared off this week…and Hwy 25. We do appreciate all your hard work and dedication." Paula Pearson via Facebook on Dec. 27

"I just want to thank you for the hard work and diligence that your department had for getting roads cleared so very quickly. I traveled from Jackson to Kennett beginning at noon on the day after the snow and all of the roads were snow and ice free. It was amazing. Thank you for providing safe travels for me and my family." Lisa Montgomery Bryant via Facebook on Dec. 27

"I just want to commend MoDOT for a great job keeping I-55 clear from St. Louis to the bootheel after the Christmas night snowstorm. It made our drive very easy. You guys did a fantastic job. Please pass this along to the folks in the counties along that route or in the districts in question—we appreciate the great job they did." K. Lane via online comment form

Congrats, SE Innovations Showcase Winners!

Every year, the Innovations Challenge poses the question, "Have you or your work team made a tool, modified a piece of equipment or created a process to get work done better, faster or cheaper?" As in competitions past, the Southeast District is eager to share their latest innovations.

The district wide Innovations Showcase was held in early December. The tools, pieces of equipment and methods included below were named winners and submitted for acceptance into the Statewide Innovations Challenge. **The links below are available for current employees.*

Chemical Wick Bar

Tow Plow Calibration

Positive Placement Geomelt Applicator

Loader Bucket Safety Screen

Expansion Joint Tool

For more info

Nicole Thieret
Customer Relations Manager
Southeast District
573.472.6632
Nicole.Thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Comments & Suggestions

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